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THEIR PAST COULD MAKE YOU HISTORY

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YOU MAY THINK AIDS, ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME, IS SOMETHING YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT. BUT YOU MAY BE WRONG.

YOUR PARTNER'S PAST COULD MAKE YOU HISTORY. PROTECTING YOURSELF AGAINST AIDS BEGINS WITH RECOGNIZING YOUR RISK. YOU MAY THINK YOU'RE CAREFUL. BUT CONSIDER THIS:

AIDS

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IF YOU'VE HAD TWO SEX PARTNERS IN THE LAST YEAR, AND EACH OF YOUR PARTNERS HAD TWO OTHER PARTNERS THE YEAR BEFORE, AND SO ON, FOR THE LAST NINE YEARS, IT'S AS IF YOU'VE SLEPT WITH 512 PEOPLE . . . WHOSE PAST YOU DON'T KNOW. TO GET THE FACTS ABOUT AIDS, READ ON.

OR, CALL THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S FREE HOTLINE:

1-800-AID-AIDS

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AIDS

is a fatal disease that causes the body to lose its natural protection against infection. It is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which attacks the body's immune system. People with AIDS are more likely to become ill from diseases that healthy people can usually fight off, such as unusual types of pneumonia and cancers. There is no vaccine or cure for AIDS.

Both men and women can get AIDS and give the virus to someone else in several ways, most commonly through vaginal, anal or oral intercourse with someone who is carrying the AIDS virus, or by sharing needles to inject drugs with someone who has the virus. AIDS cannot be spread through casual contact, such as hugging, shaking hands or being near an infected person who is coughing or sneezing. AIDS is not spread by drinking glasses, eating utensils or mosquitos.

Those at greatest risk of AIDS infection are:

- People who have more than one sex partner or who don't know the sexual history of their partner or partners.
- People who share intravenous drug needles.
- Men who have sex with men.
- The sex partners of persons who practice or have practiced these behaviors.
- Babies born to infected mothers.

You can't tell if your partner is infected with the AIDS virus.

Many people who have the virus do not show signs of AIDS, and they may or may not develop it in the future. But once people have become infected, they can spread the virus to others for the rest of their lives.

How can you avoid infection? The only certain ways are to abstain from sex and sharing drug needles, or to stay in a relationship where both partners are not infected and only have sex with each other. Make it a point to learn about your partner's medical, sexual and social history. Proper use of latex condoms during all sexual intercourse reduces your chances of getting AIDS.

If you've had two sex partners in the last year, and each of your partners had two other partners the year before, and so on, for the last nine years, it's as if you've slept with 512 people. . . whose past you don't know.

To find out more about AIDS and AIDS testing, talk to your doctor or your local health department. You can also call the Illinois Department of Public Health toll-free AIDS hotline at 1-800-AID-AIDS, to ask questions or get information about where to get tested. All of your questions will be answered in strict confidence. The Illinois Department of Public Health operates counseling and testing sites throughout the state, where free, confidential counseling is offered to answer questions and explain test results.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 1-800-AID-AIDS

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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